

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/620,603	FUJIKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hadi Akhavannik	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 10/15/07.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-12, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 20-23.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below.. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claim 4 recites in part:

a change-quantity computation unit connected to said motion-vector buffer unit and connected to said vision-sensitivity buffer unit, and a pixel-changing unit connected to said change-quantity computation unit and connected to said picture buffer unit; wherein: after said motion vector is supplied to said motion-vector buffer unit and said noise-vision-sensitivity index is supplied to said vision-index buffer unit, said digital-watermark-embedment control unit outputs said motion vector and said noise-vision-sensitivity index to said change-quantity computation unit for use in computation of a pixel-change quantity; and control is executed so as to carry out a process of embedding a digital watermark into a picture frame after said pixel-change quantity and said picture frame stored in said picture buffer unit are supplied to said pixel-changing unit.

Independent claim 5 recites in part:

picture compression unit includes a compression control unit as well as a motion-vector buffer unit, a vision-sensitivity buffer unit and a picture buffer unit, which are connected to said compression control unit; and said compression control unit executes control so as to carry out a compression process after said motion vector is supplied to said motion-vector buffer unit, said noise-vision-sensitivity index is supplied to said vision-sensitivity buffer unit and a predetermined

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frame with blocks thereof including said embedded digital watermark is supplied to said picture buffer unit.

Independent claim 6 recites in part:

if said input content is a static picture, said motion vector output by said motion-searching unit is set at a zero before being supplied to said digital-watermark embedment unit and said picture compression unit.

Independent claims 7 and 8 recite in part:

digital-watermark embedment unit embeds said digital watermark into said picture obtained as a result of said decoding process carried out by said picture-decoding unit on the basis of said motion vector and said quantization parameter, which are received from said picture-decoding unit.

The other independent recite similar subject matter as claims 4-6 and 7-8 and are allowable for the same reasons.

The above features, as explicitly recited, and in combination with the other elements of the claim are neither disclosed nor suggested by the nearest prior art of the record.

Prior arts Yoshiura, Alattar, Roa and Olsson do not disclose the specifics of the independent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hadi Akhavannik whose telephone number is 571-272-8622. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian P. Werner can be reached on 517-272-7401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HA
10/23/07


BRIAN WERNER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER